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## NEWS.

DR. KIENITZ-GERLOFF has been called to a professorship in Weilburg.

PROFESSOR F. A. HAZSLINSZKY, one of the well known Hungarian mycologists, died at Eperies, Hungary, on the 19th of November last.

A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH of the late Henry Trimen, with portrait, appears in the *Journal of Botany* for December (1896), prepared by the editor, Mr. James Britten.

A SECOND ISSUE of Bailey's *Survival of the unlike* is about ready. A few minor alterations have been made and a fuller statement given to the concluding paragraph of the first essay.

THE TITLE of "professor" has been conferred upon Dr. Karl Müller, of Halle, the editor of *Natur*, and better known to American readers as the author of the *Synopsis Muscorum*, and many other works and papers on bryology.

A GARDEN SCHOLARSHIP is to be awarded by the Director of the Missouri Botanical Garden, Dr. Wm. Trelease, before April first. Applications must be in before March first, and the preliminary examination will be held at St. Louis March 9.

A REVISED EDITION of Wright's "Guide to the organic drugs of the U. S. Pharmacopœia of 1890" has been issued by Eli Lilly & Co. of Indianapolis. It contains much additional material, and is of interest not merely to pharmacists, but also to botanists who are interested in the medicinal properties of plants. It may be had from the firm for a two-cent stamp, or, bound in leather, for twenty-five cents.

A VERY INTERESTING ACCOUNT of cryptogamic botany in Harvard University, from 1874 to 1896, has been prepared by Dr. W. G. Farlow. The account concludes with a list of contributions from the cryptogamic laboratory, containing thirty-seven numbers, to which are added eight unnumbered papers which contain the results of work done by their authors while studying in the laboratory, besides the numerous papers by Professor Farlow himself.

MRS. GRAY has completed the mounting of the autograph letters of various botanists which Dr. Asa Gray preserved from his voluminous corres-

pondence, numbering more than eleven hundred. With the letters, whenever possible, an engraving or photograph of the writer has been mounted. Some of the autographs are extremely rare, and the painstaking care which Mrs. Gray has bestowed upon preparing and mounting the letters, has increased the value of the collection many fold.

IN PROSECUTING the work of "Experiment Station Extension" under the Nixon law in the State of New York, Professor Bailey has conceived and is publishing a series of leaflets for use in the rural schools. These leaflets are intended to be put into the hands of teachers, or even of pupils, as suggestions for object lessons about common things. Number 1 is dated December 1, 1896, and is entitled "How a squash plant gets out of the seed," and is illustrated by fourteen admirable outline drawings. The idea is a good one.

HEINRICH BEHRENS suggests a new method of preserving juicy fruits, fleshy parts of plants, fungi, etc.<sup>1</sup> The parts are dipped when the surface is air-dry into a warm 5 per cent. solution of gelatine. If the gelatine does not adhere, the object is first dipped in 70 per cent. alcohol and then immediately into the gelatine. After cooling the object is dipped into a mixture of twenty parts of formalin (40 per cent. formaldehyde) and fifty parts water. An insoluble layer of gelatine is thus formed, destroying all adherent putrefactive and fermentative germs, and preserving the watery parts in their natural form and color.

MR. AUGUSTINE HENRY, of Mengtse, China, has just published<sup>2</sup> an interesting account of Chinese "soap trees." The fruits of these trees are in common use among the Chinese for washing purposes, in spite of the importation of alkaline soaps. Little is known concerning the chemical nature of the fruits which give them such useful properties, but it is assumed that they contain saponin. Mr. Henry finds that the soap trees belong to the Sapindaceæ and Leguminosæ, and that all the genera are represented in America excepting Pancovia. The list of trees whose fruits are so used throughout China contains twelve species, eight of which are species of Gleditschia, and the others species of Sapindus, Pancovia, Gymnocladus, and Acacia.

UNDER A new law, announcement is made by the United States Department of Agriculture that the serial, scientific, and technical publications of the department are not for general distribution. All copies not required for official use are turned over to the Superintendent of Documents, who is empowered to sell them at cost. All applications for such publications should therefore be made to the Superintendent of Documents, Union Build-

<sup>1</sup> Zeits. f. angewandte Mikroskopie 2:36. 1896. Cf. Bot. Centralbl. 68:286. 1896.

<sup>2</sup> Amer. Druggist and Pharm. Record, 29:317. 1896.

ing, Washington, D. C. He is not, however, allowed to sell more than one copy of any public document to the same person, and remittance should always be made to him and not to the Department of Agriculture. Do not send checks or stamps.

THE PUBLISHER of Engler & Prantl's *Natürlichen Pflanzenfamilien* (Wilhelm Engelmann, Leipzig) announces that parts II, III, and IV, treating the phanerogams, are complete with the exception of the conclusion of Labiatæ, Umbelliferæ, and Cornaceæ, and the supplements including genera added during 1896 to the families already published. Harm's Cornaceæ is in press; Briquet promised to complete the Labiatæ by the close of 1896, as did also Drude the Umbelliferæ. Engler is preparing the supplementary parts. The prospect is therefore that the phanerogams will be completed during the first half of 1897. In order to enable subscribers to use these parts conveniently at once a separate index for phanerogams and cryptogams will be issued. A capable bibliographer is already at work on the index. This course, although objectionable, has been determined upon because of the necessarily slow progress of the cryptogamic parts. The preparation of the algæ and fungi progresses rapidly and will probably be finished by the close of this year, but it is doubtful whether the bryophytes and pteridophytes can be ready before 1898.

THE COLLECTING SEASON of the Mexican Botanical Club for 1897 will open March 1. The territory they propose to explore will embrace the states of Guerrero, as far south as Acapulco, Michoacan, Jalisco, Colima, and Territory of Tepic, probably as far north as San Blas. This is a most picturesque and fertile country, ranging from sea level to 14,000 feet elevation, interspersed with numerous valleys, deep cañons, rugged mountains, active volcanoes, and abundant streams of water. Under their careful system of explorations they should reap a rich harvest of economic plants, and new varieties valuable for cultivation and investigation. As a result of their operations, we look for new and rare varieties of orchids, palms, ferns, etc., which they propose to mail weekly to members directly from the field in growing condition. They will also be well equipped with cameras for photographing scenery, and especially plants, unmounted copies of which will be given to each member. The work will be again under the direct management of Mr. Wm. Brockway, Maravatio, Mexico. We understand that the club is desirous of securing a few more members at once, and full information may be obtained by addressing him or Professor L. N. Bailey, Ithaca, N. Y.